(i) a cell rupture or lysis step after step (c), optionally followed by a step for degrading the nucleic acids,

(ii) a step for inactivating enveloped viruses, and/or

(iii) a packed-bed chromatography step or a gel filtration chromatography step.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said viral particles are adenoviral particles.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better condition for U.S. patent practice.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 22, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-11

1. (Amended) A method for purifying a crude viral preparation containing viral particles of interest, [characterized in that it comprises] comprising at least one fluidized-bed adsorption step.

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said fluidized bed contains particles of adsorbent and is obtained by suspending said particles in a fluid under the action of one or more forces selected from the group consisting of mechanical, electromagnetic, magnetic, gravitational and electrical forces.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, comprising:

a) a phase for expanding said particles of adsorbent in a chromatography column, [in particular] by applying an ascending flow of buffer, said expansion phase being maintained until a fluidized bed is obtained,

b) a phase for loading said crude viral preparation[, in particular] in the lower part of said column,

c) a phase for washing by passing a buffer through[, in particular in] an ascending flow,

d) a phase for sedimentation, optionally aided by a descending flow of buffer, and

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 22, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-11

e) a step for elution by applying a descending flow of buffer[, in particular a descending flow,] in order to allow the release of the viral particles adsorbed onto said particles of adsorbent.

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2 [or 3], [characterized in that] wherein said particles of adsorbent consist of polymer, and more particularly of a polymer chosen from agarose, polyacrylamide, polystyrene or derivatives thereof.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said particles of adsorbent bear at least one ligand capable of binding specifically and reversibly to an antiligand, said antiligand [consisting of] comprising all or part of [a] said viral particle of interest.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein said ligand [consists of] comprises a positively charged group[, advantageously a basic group, and more particularly a group] selected from the group consisting of the dimethylaminoethyl (DMAE) group, the diethylaminoethyl (DEAE) group, the trimethylaminoethyl (TMAE) group, the group -R-CH(OH)-CH_2-N^+-$(CH_3)_3$ (Q group), the guanidinium group [or] and the imine group[, such as polyethyleneimine (PEI)].

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 22, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-11

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in [one of claims 2 to 6] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein said particles of adsorbent [consist of] comprise an agarose matrix and [comprise] a central core [made of] comprising quartz and dextran chains covalently coupled to said agarose matrix, on which is attached said positively charged group and[, in particular,] the Q group.

8. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, [characterized in that it is carried] comprising carrying out under conductivity conditions of between approximately 25 and approximately 70 mS/cm[, advantageously between approximately 30 and approximately 40 mS/cm, and preferably between approximately 30 and approximately 35 mS/cm].

9. (Amended) A protocol for producing viral particles which can be used for gene therapy, comprising the following steps (i) and (ii) :

(i) [production of] producing a crude viral preparation, comprising [the steps]:

(a) infecting or transfecting a suitable cell line with at least one viral vector [of interest, preferably a] or recombinant viral vector of interest;

(b) culturing said infected or transfected cell line under conditions which allow viral replication and the production of viral particles; and

(c) collecting the cells and/or the supernatant,

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 22, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-11

(ii) [purification of] purifying said crude viral preparation according to [one of the methods of claims 1 to 8] claim 1.

10. (Amended) The protocol as claimed in claim 9, [characterized in that it also comprises] comprising:

(i) a cell rupture or lysis step after step (c), optionally followed by a step for degrading the nucleic acids,

(ii) a step for inactivating enveloped viruses, and/or

(iii) a packed-bed chromatography step[, and in particular] or a gel filtration chromatography step.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 8 or the protocol as claimed in claim 9 or 10, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein said viral particles are adenoviral particles.